

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:70
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2006
SHORTAGE OF FUEL FOR ATOMIC REACTORS
Singh Shri Rakesh

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

:

- (a) whether there is a shortage of fuel for atomic reactors of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has any plan to become self reliant in the field of atomic energy to ensure atomic autonomy of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the country is likely to become self reliant in the field of atomic fuel?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

- (a) There is a mismatch at present between supply and demand of fuel for the Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors.
- (b) Improved operation of Nuclear power reactors, reduction in gestation period of reactors under construction and unanticipated delays in opening of new uranium mines has created a gap in supply and demand at present.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d)& (e) Augmentation of Uranium for the reactors in operation and future first stage reactors is receiving the attention of the Government at the highest level. Resulting out of these efforts, the situation will progressively improve in the XI Plan. With a view to utilize the vast potential of thorium for electricity generation, a three-stage programme has been envisaged. The installed nuclear power capacity will be enhanced progressively depending upon the availability of indigenous fuel.